

King James Bible II Esdras

Chapter Eleven

1 Then I had a dream, and behold, there came vp from the Sea an Eagle, which had twelve feathered wings, & three heads. 2 And I saw, and behold, she spread her wings over all the earth, and all the winds of the air blew on her, and were gathered together. 3 And I beheld, and out of her feathers there grew other contrary feathers, and they became little feathers, and small.

4 But her heads were at rest: the head in the middle was greater than the other, yet rested it with the residue. 5 Moreover I beheld, and loe, the Eagle flew with her feathers, and reigned vpon earth, and ouer them that dwelt therein.

6 And I saw that all things under heaven were subject unto her, and no man spoke against her, no not one creature vpon earth. 7 And I beheld, and loe, the Eagle rose vpon her talents, and spoke to her feathers, saying, 8 Watch not all at once, sleepe everyone in his own place, and watch by course. 9 But let the heads be preserved for the last. 10 And I beheld, and loe, the voice went not out of her heads, but from the midst of her body.

11 And I numbered her contrary feathers, and behold, there were eight of them. 12 And I looked, and behold, on the right side there arose one feather, and reigned over all the earth. 13 And so it was, that when it reigned, the end of it came, and the place thereof appeared no more: so the next following stood vp and reigned, and had a great time. 14 And it happened, that when it reigned, the end of it came also, like as the first, so that it appeared no more.

15 Then came there a voice unto it, and sayd, 16 Heare, thou that hast borne rule over the earth so long: this I say unto thee, before thou beginnest to appear no more. 17 There shall none after thee attain unto thy time, neither vnto the half thereof.

18 Then arose the third, and reigned as the other before: and appeared no more also. 19 So went it with all the residue one after another, as that everyone reigned, and then appeared no more.

20 Then I beheld, and lo, in the process of time, the feathers that followed, stood vp vpon the right side, that they might rule also, and some of them ruled, but within a while they appeared no more: 21 For some of them were set vp, but ruled not. 22 After this I looked, and behold, the twelve feathers appeared no more, nor the two little feathers: 23 And there was no more vpon the Eagles body, but three heads that rested, and sixe little wings.

24 Then saw I also that two little feathers divided themselves from the sixe, and remained under the head, that was vpon the right side: for the four continued in their place. 25 And I beheld, and loe, the feathers that were under the wing, thought to set up themselves, and to haue the

rule. 26 And I beheld, & loe, there was one set vp, but shortly it appeared no more. 27 And the second was sooner away than the first.

28 And I beheld, and loe, the two that remained, thought also in themselves to reigne. 29 And when they so thought, behold, there awaked one of the heads that were at rest, namely it that was in the midst, for that was greater than the two other heads. 30 And then I saw that the two other heads were joined with it. 31 And behold, the head was turned with those that were with it, and did eat vp the two feathers under the wing that would have reigned. 32 But this head put the whole earth in fear, and bare rule in it over all those that dwelt vpon the earth, with much oppression, and it had the governance of the world more than all the wings that had beene.

33 And after this I beheld, and loe the head that was in the midst, suddenly appeared no more, like as the wings. 34 But there remained the two heads, which also in like sort ruled vpon the earth, and over those that dwelt therein. 35 And I beheld, and loe, the head vpon the right side, devoured it, that was vpon the left side.

36 Then I heard a voice, which said unto me, Look before thee, and consider the thing that thou seest. 37 And I beheld, and loe, as it were a roaring Lyon, chased out of the wood: and I saw that he sent out a mans voyce vnto the Eagle, and said,

38 Heare thou, I will talk with thee, and the highest shall say unto thee, 39 Art not thou it that remainest of the four beasts, whom I made to raigne in my world, that the end of their times might come through them? 40 And the fourth came and overcame all the beasts that were past, and had power over the world with great fearfulness, and ouer the whole compass of the earth with much wicked oppression, and so long time dwelt he vpon the earth with deceit. 41 For the earth hast thou not judged with truth. 42 For thou hast afflicted the meeke, thou hast hurt the peaceable, thou hast loved liars, and destroyed the dwellings of them that brought forth fruit, and hast cast down the walls of such, as did thee no harme. 43 Therefore is thy wrongful dealing come vp vnto the Highest, and thy pride vnto the Mighty. 44 The Highest also hath looked vpon the proud times, and behold, they are ended, and his abominations are fulfilled. 45 And therefore appear no more thou Eagle, nor thy horrible wings, nor thy wicked feathers, nor thy malicious heads, nor thy hurtfull clawes, nor all thy vaine body: 46 That all the earth may be refreshed, and may return, being delivered from thy violence, and that she may hope for the judgment, and mercy of him that made her.

Chapter Twelve

1 And it came to passe whiles the Lyon spake these words vnto the Eagle, I saw: 2 And behold, the head that remained, and the four wings appeared no more, and the two went vnto it, and set themselues vp to raigne, and their kingdom was small and full of uproar. 3 And I saw, and behold, they appeared no more, and the whole body of the Eagle was burnt, so that the earth was in great feare: then awaked I out of the trouble and traunce of my mind, and from great feare, and said vnto my spirit,

4 Loe, this hast thou done unto me, in that thou searchest out the ways of the Highest. 5 Loe, yet am I weary in my mind, and very weak in my spirit: and little strength is there in me; for the great fear, wherewith I was affrighted this night. 6 Therefore will I now beseech the Highest, that he will comfort me vnto the end. 7 And I said, Lord, that bearest rule, If I haue found grace before thy sight, and if I am iustified with thee, before many others, and if my prayer indeed become vp before thy face, 8 Comfort me then, and shew me thy servant the interpretation, and plain difference of this fearful vision, that thou mayest perfectly comfort my soul. 9 For thou hast judged me worthy, to shew me the last times.

10 And he said vnto me, This is the interpretation of the vision. 11 The Eagle whom thou sawest come vp from the sea, is the kingdom which was seene, in the vision of thy brother Daniel. 12 But it was not expounded vnto him, therefore now I declare it vnto thee.

13 Behold, the days will come, that there shall rise vp a kingdom on earth, and it shall be feared above all the kingdoms that were before it. 14 In the same shall twelve kings reign, one after another. 15 Whereof the second shall begin to reign, and shall haue more time than any of the twelve. 16 And this do the twelve wings signifie which thou sawest.

17 As for the voice which thou heard speake, and that thou sawest not to go out from the heads, but from the midst of the body thereof, this is the interpretation: 18 That after the time of that kingdom, there shall arise great strivings, and it shall stand in peril of falling: nevertheless it shall not then fall, but shal be restored againe to his beginning.

19 And whereas thou sawest the eight small vnder feathers sticking to her wings, this is the interpretation: 20 That in him there shall arise eight kings, whose time shall be but small, and their years swift. 21 And two of them shall perish: the middle time approaching, foure shall be kept until their end begins to approach: but two shall be kept vnto the end.

22 And whereas thou sawest three heads resting, this is the interpretation. 23 In his last days shall the most High raise vp three kingdoms, and renew many things therein, and they shal have the dominion of the earth, 24 And of those that dwell therein with much oppression, above all those that were before them: therefore are they called the heads of the Eagle. 25 For these are they that shall accomplish his wickedness, and that shall finish his last end.

26 And whereas thou sawest that the great head appeared no more, it signifies that one of them shall die vpon his bed, and yet with pain. 27 For the two that remain, shall be slain with the sword. 28 For the sword of the one shall devour the other: but at the last shall he fall through the sword himself.

29 And whereas thou sawest two feathers vnder the wings passing over the head, that is on the right side: 30 It signifies that these are they whom the Highest hath kept vnto their end: this is the small kingdom and full of trouble, as thou sawest.

31 And the Lion whom thou sawest rising vp out of the wood, and roaring, and speaking to the Eagle, and rebuking her for her vnrighteousnesse, with all the words which thou hast heard, 32 This is the Anointed which the Highest hath kept for them, and for their wickedness unto the end: he shall reprove them, and shall upbraid them with their cruelty. 33 For hee shall set them before him alive in judgment, and shall rebuke them and correct them. 34 For the rest of my people shall he deliver with mercy, those that have been preserved vpon my borders, and he shall make them ioyfull vntill the comming of the day of judgment, whereof I haue spoken vnto thee from the beginning.

35 This is the dream that thou sawest, and these are the interpretations. 36 Thou onely hast bene meete to know this secret of the Highest. 37 Therefore write all these things that thou hast seene, in a book, and hide them. 38 And teach them to the wise of the people, whose hearts thou knowest may comprehend, and keep these seerets.